

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6130

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION WASHDC

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ABMC FOR GENERAL ADAMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, MX

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CEMETERY

1. EMBOFF MET WITH MEXICO CITY PLANNING CHIEF ING. ALICIA ALESSIO ROBLES ON FEBRUARY 4, 1975 AT HER REQUEST. MISS ALESSIO ROBLES ANNOUNCED THAT MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS READY TO ACCOMPLISH ALL MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED BY ABMC'S COL. BADGER DURING HIS NOVEMBER 1974 VISIT AT NO COST TO USG. WORK CAN BEGIN, ING. ALESSIO ROBLES SAID, IF USG ACCEPTS SOLE CONDITION SET BY FONSEC RABASA, I.E., THAT THERE BE NO MEMORIAL TO THE "AMERICAN INTERVENTION" OF 1847 ON THE CEMETERY GROUNDS.

2. IT APPEARS THAT STRENGTH OF FONSEC'S FEELINGS ON CEMETERY PRESENCE HAS NOT DIMINISHED, BUT GOM ALSO SEEMS TO RECOGNIZE OUR INTENTION NOT TO BE STAMPEDED. WE BELIEVE MESSAGE TRANSMITTED BY ING. ALESSIO ROBLES CONSTITUTES AN ATTEMPT BY GOM TO SETTLE MATTER IN "CABALLEROSO" FASHION SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR SOME MONTHS AGO. EMBASSY IS NOT HAPPY WITH RABASA'S CONDITION AND CLEARLY, WE CAN REJECT IT, BUT POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE WOULD BE FOR GOM TO RETRACT ITS OFFER TO DEFRAID MODIFICATION COSTS AND THEN TO REIMBURSE US ONLY FOR LAND ACTUALLY TAKEN FOR ROADWAY. ALTERNATIVELY, WE MIGHT

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RESPOND BY INSTALLING A MEMORIAL OVER THE MASS GRAVE LESS

LIKELY TO INCITE A RIGIDLY JINGOISTIC REACTION . IN THAT REGARD, ING. MONTEJANO OF CITY PLANNING STAFF, STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT FONSEC OBJECTS SPECIFICALLY TO THE MEMORIAL PYLON WHICH LISTS ENGAGEMENTS AT MOLINO DEL REY, CHAPULTEPEC, CHURUBUSCO, CONTRERAS, AND MEXICO CITY. CITY PLANNERS ASSUME THE MASS GRAVE WOULD OCCUPY SAME SPOT PROPOSED BY ABMC, BETWEEN THE TWIN FLAG STAFFS AT SOUTH END OF CEMETERY. TECHNICIANS COULD NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES, BUT OPINED THAT A REDESIGNED MARKER OVER THE 750 UNKNOWNNS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF IT DID NOT IDENTIFY MEXICAN-US BATTLES.

3. CLARIFICATION (AND VERIFICATION) OF FONSEC'S VIEWS IS NEEDED, BUT BEFORE PROCEEDING WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BENEFIT OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND ABMC REACTION TO GOM PROPOSAL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A PROMPT REPLY.
JOVA

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